

Amacha Kuyo Holy Tea Blessing

One of the unique, sacred practices of the Gedatsu Church is the performance of *Amacha* holy tea blessing, or *kuyo*, in which we dedicate our sincere prayers and service to the peaceful repose of the souls of the deceased and express gratitude to the spirits. We accomplish this by pouring *Amacha* holy tea over memorial tablets or stupa, on which souls are invited to receive the blessing.

Amacha blessing can be done by anyone, even young children. Yet, while simple to perform, the blessing is profound in its effect. When done with complete sincerity and faith, *Amacha* blessing can bring peace and salvation for unrested spirits, no matter how dire their suffering.

Peace and Purification

Among the spirits of the departed, there are many who cannot rest peacefully in the spiritual realm, often because of karmic influences or earthly attachments. They cannot be purified or find repose through our recitation of prayers and offerings alone. To purge negative karma, and/or to be purified and freed from their suffering, *Amacha* blessing is necessary.

The practice of *Amacha* blessing was discovered by our Founder Gedatsu Kongo through his divine inspiration and spiritual power. The performance of *Amacha* blessing is a central practice in our daily prayers – not

only to purify deceased souls, but as a means to purify our own minds, souls and bodies.

The miraculous ability of *Amacha* blessing to bring relief to suffering souls and purify negative karma results from the combination of three essential elements: the power of the holy *Goho*, the intrinsic qualities of *Amacha* holy tea and the performer's sincerity and faith.

The Holy Goho

The term *Goho*, as used in the Gedatsu doctrine, contains no less than the dynamic concentration of cosmic forces: the infinite and inexhaustible Universal Life Force, or God, and the representation of its activities. These forces are symbolized in the combination of five Sanskrit characters – representing five aspects of universal wisdom or enlightenment – which were written by Gedatsu Kongo, while in a state of divine revelation. Thus, activated with the Founder's spiritual power, they are inscribed on prayer plaques and stupa and on holy amulets issued by the church.

The dynamic power of the Holy *Goho* dissolves negative karma and ignorance. It effects spiritual purification of the individual, renders salvation to the unrested spirits and frees mankind from its sufferings.

***Amacha* Holy Tea**

Our *Amacha* tea is derived from the *Amacha* plant, grown and harvested in Japan. The term *Amacha* is commonly translated as “sweet tea,” because the tea contains a natural sweetener that is many times sweeter than

table sugar. Instead of “sweet tea,” however, the Gedatsu Church writes *Amacha* as “heavenly” or “holy” tea in the belief that it is conferred by God for holy purposes.

The tea is often associated with the celebration of the birth of the Buddha, when Buddhists sprinkle the sweet tea over the image of the infant Buddha. *Amacha* leaves have been used as herbs and for medicinal purposes since the Middle Ages. They are believed to improve the condition of the body organs and purify the blood.

Sincerity and Faith

The third essential element in the effectiveness of *Amacha* blessing rests within ourselves: the degree of sincerity and faith we bring to the performance of the *Amacha* service. This involves our emersion in a prayerful attitude in which we submit ourselves – meaning our egos – fully to the Universal Life Force, or God. It is a state of mind in which our attitude of “I am doing this” gives way to a higher consciousness of “I am *allowed* to do this.”

A Sacred Gift

Thus, Gedatsu followers believe that there is no blessing more effective and powerful than *Amacha* blessing in bringing peace, comfort and purification to the souls of the departed. The daily performance of *Amacha* blessing is truly joyful and transformative – a sacred gift beyond value.

Our Prayer Service

Thank you for worshipping with us today at our Gedatsu Church. We hope that you find comfort, joy and inspiration here.

We encourage you to study with us as we express our sincere appreciation to God and our ancestors for the infinite blessings we receive in our daily lives.

Our Gedatsu devotional service includes three key elements: The offering of prayer in respect and appreciation to God and ancestors; the recitation of the Heart Sutra, or *Hannya Shingyo*; and the performance of *Amacha* holy tea blessing, which is explained in this pamphlet.

We are pleased to have you participate in our prayer service and join with us in creating a rich and joyful spiritual experience.

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Reverend Naoya Okano

Sunday Services:

Japanese: 1st Sunday 10 am
Memorial: 2nd Sunday 10 am
English-Japanese: 3rd Sunday 10 am
English: 4th Sunday 10 am

Office Hours:

Tuesday – Sunday 9 am – 4 pm
Closed on Mondays

Gedatsu Spiritual Center
Sacramento Branch
4016 Happy Lane
Sacramento, CA 95827
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Fax: (916) 363-1429

Reverend Akira Sebe
Reverend Kazuo Yamada

Sunday Services:

2nd and 4th Sundays 9:30 am

Office Hours:

Tuesday – Sunday 9 am – 4 pm
Closed on Mondays

Learn more about the Gedatsu Church at
www.gedatsu-usa.org.



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Its Wondrous Power in Purifying
Our Minds, Souls and Bodies